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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
**Human Resources Committee**

Office of the Chairman

HRC-78-009  
February 24, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking

FROM:

[REDACTED]

Chairman, Human Resources Committee

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SUBJECT: Human Resources Committee Views  
on Open Source Collection (OSCOL) (U)

1. (U) I attach the revised minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 18 January 1978 to develop views on the establishment of a mechanism to deal with open source collection (OSCOL). The minutes have now been approved by Committee members.

2. (C) The views of the Committee can be summarized as follows:

a. Committee representatives unanimously support an interagency effort to give greater emphasis to open source collection but opinions differ as to the scope of the collection problems.

b. Members prefer the creation of a subelement for open source collection under the Human Resources Committee to the creation of another major collection committee. Membership of this subelement would differ from that of the HRC, but would include IMPAC (Interagency Map and Publications Acquisitions Committee) participants, FBIS, and others as appropriate.

3. (C) Recommendations: That the HRC include in its future activity the organization of a working group or task force to:

a. define the current open source collection problems;

b. identify and describe open source collection mechanisms currently in existence;

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c. develop an understanding of those publications now being acquired by the various agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. Government of possible interest to the Intelligence Community; and

d. propose an appropriate mechanism or structure within the Human Resources Committee to deal with current and future OSCOL problems.

4. (U) The members of the Committee have concurred in these recommendations, and if you approve we will proceed as indicated.



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Attachment:  
Revised HRC Minutes

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APPROVE



DISAPPROVE

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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
**Human Resources Committee**

Office of the Chairman

HRC-M-068  
23 January 1978

Minutes of the Sixty-eighth Meeting, 18 January 1978

Members or Representatives Present

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
State  
CIA  
DIA  
NSA  
Treasury  
Army  
Air Force  
FBI  
Department of Energy

Others Present

State  
State  
CIA  
CIA  
CIA  
CIA  
DIA  
Army  
Army  
Air Force  
IC Staff  
IC Staff  
HRC Secretariat  
HRC Secretariat  
HRC Secretariat

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1. The Minutes of the Sixty-seventh Meeting (HRC-M-067) were approved.

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2. The Human Resources Committee met on 18 January to discuss creation of an interagency Committee for Overt Collection (OVCOL) as a component of the Office of Collection Disciplines of the future National Tasking Organization. The views of the Committee are to be provided to [REDACTED] the designated Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking (D/DCI/CT).

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3. As background for Committee Members, the Chairman referred to the briefing of the Committee by the D/DCI/CT on 16 December. In his presentation, [REDACTED] invited the views of the HRC on organizational options for an OVCOL mechanism. [REDACTED] explained that subsequently this function or possible new discipline has also been referred to as Open Source Collection (OSCOL).

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4. Committee members first attempted to define possible OVCOL and OSCOL functions. It was agreed that overt collection is the broader term. OVCOL includes the acquisition of intelligence information by a variety of means. It encompasses collection by human sources as well as information derived from publications and documents. Open source information was considered as being information of potential intelligence value derived from data available to the general public. (NOTE: Committee members did not cite the two definitions recently developed by the Community Intelligence Working Group. These definitions are attached, however, for the information of HRC Members.) Inasmuch as the broader OVCOL function is currently accepted as an existing responsibility of the HRC, Members agreed to limit their discussions to the narrower OSCOL activity.

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5. The Chairman provided members a paper describing the Inter-agency Map and Publications Acquisition Committee (IMPAC) (attached) for their information.

[REDACTED]

State. The reporting from the United States Information Service (USIS) is of interest to OSCOL, although USIA/USIS is not taskable by the Intelligence Community. USIA is represented abroad in some 100 USIS posts, and USIS reports daily by teletype from six of its major overseas posts. Copies of these reports are provided other agencies. The State Representative suggested that as a beginning OSCOL should consider how IMPAC, FBIS, and USIS would relate to it.

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7. The CIA representative asked why a subcommittee had not been suggested in one of the organizational options rather than a working group. She believes that a subcommittee is more effective than a working group. She stated that CIA prefers a subcommittee to a separate committee for OSCOL. A subcommittee would be more conducive to effective coordination of the OSCOL functions with other related functions residing with the HRC. She wondered if as a separate committee the OSCOL committee might go in one direction with the HRC moving in another.

8. A discussion followed in which members sought to understand more precisely the current open source collection problem. DIA stated that we would need to more accurately define this problem before giving consideration to organizational adjustments. The CIA representative stated that the S&T intelligence working group had identified problems in the acquisition of scientific and technological publications and was seeking to solve that problem. She stated that the S&T problem was a part of a broader problem.

9. The Treasury representative expressed the view that a separate committee was not necessary, in part, because often one cannot separate the acquisition of publications and documents from other collection involving human sources. He suggested that a first task in any case would be to make an inventory of what open source literature is currently being acquired and by whom, i.e. identify the various publication acquisition mechanisms that exist in Washington. 25X1A




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12. The Army representative expressed the Army position that publications procurement is an overt intelligence activity. The Army prefers a subcommittee or working group approach and does not favor further fragmentation of the major collection disciplines. The publications procurement function is a part of the Army human resource system. He said that we should not confuse the reference tools of analysts with publications collection functions. He said no major shifts in organization are needed or desired. The CIA representative agreed that overt collection requires further stimulation. Much of this is required in the improvement of dissemination or distribution of available materials, not unique collection functions. The Treasury representative stated that improving open source collection meant, among other things, better visibility and availability of materials. He made the point that there is a question as to the degree to which the Intelligence Community should be concerned with the collection of non-intelligence information, noting that confusion persists within the U.S. Government between the broader national information problem and the narrower, but included, national intelligence problem. 25X1A



14. The Air Force representative emphasized that some structure is needed for overseeing open source collection. The development of an inventory of the documents and publications presently being acquired would be helpful. The Air Force believes this is a good idea and is prepared to participate. The NSA representative said that his agency would participate also. He continued that there were not enough people working the publications acquisition problem. 25X1A

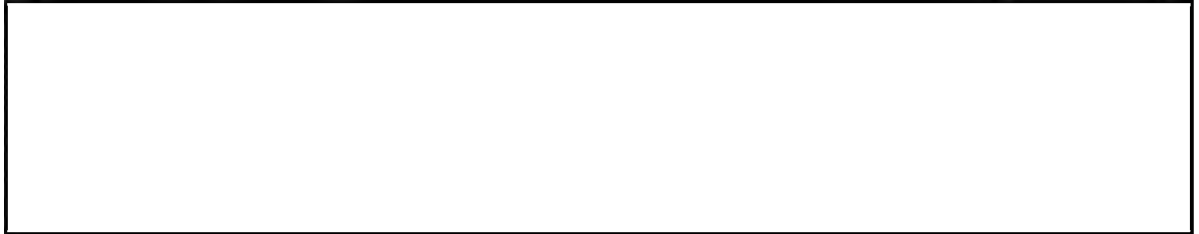


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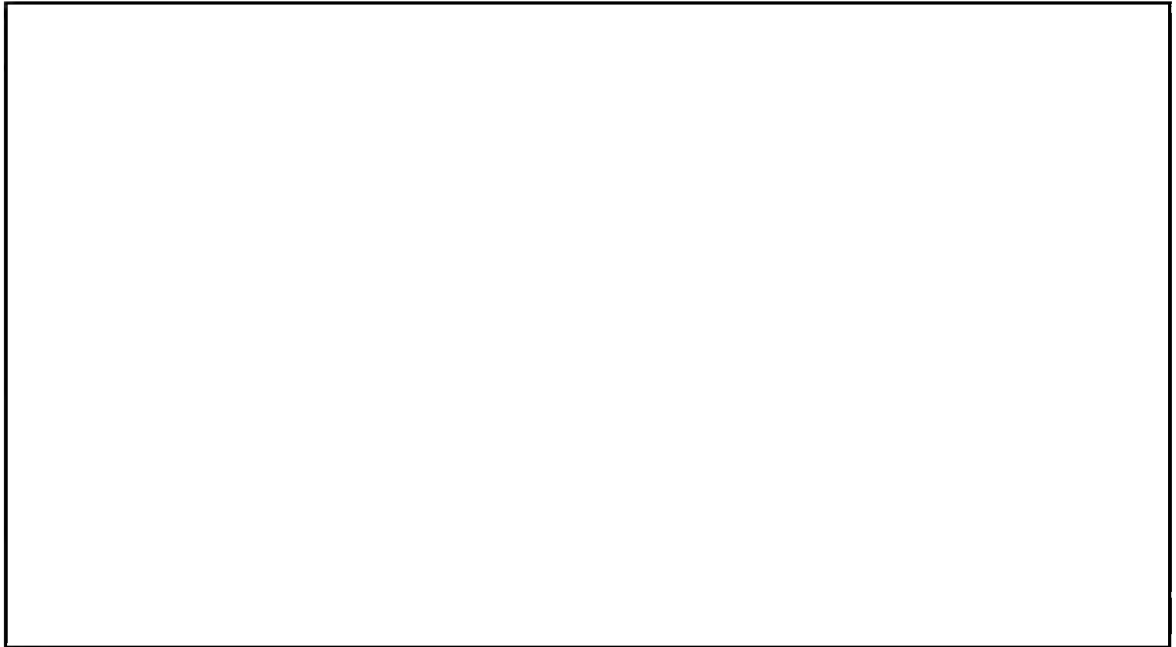
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17. There followed a general discussion of the relationship between NPHR Action Program A, already approved for HRC implementation, and the work of an open source collection committee. The key points which emerged from this discussion were:

a. NPHR Action Program A aims principally at opening or expanding two way information flow channels between intelligence and non-intelligence elements of the USG foreign affairs community, whereas OSCOL, should it be created, would promote and coordinate new collection efforts (one-way to intelligence production offices) in the area of public information. In broad outline, the HRC - through NPHR Action Program A - would interact with other USG departments and agencies, while OSCOL would interact with the private sector.

b. OSCOL would, however, become the community forum for some existing intelligence community activities which deal with acquisition of printed matter, translation of foreign public information as a service to intelligence producers and consumers, and the like.



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C. The consensus opinion was that the HRC could expand the scope of NPHR Action Program A to include the intended OSCOL activity and that organizational representation appropriate to that activity could be provided in an HRC sub-element.

18. The Chairman told Committee Members that he would summarize the views of the HRC and pass them on to [REDACTED] The final paper would be circulated to members before it formally went to the D/DCI/CT.

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[REDACTED]

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Acting Executive Secretary

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Attachment to minutes of the sixty-eighth meeting of the  
Human Resources Committee, 18 January 1978.

\* \* \*

OVERT COLLECTION: The acquisition of intelligence information from public media, observation, government-to-government dialogue, elicitation, and from the sharing of data openly acquired. The collection process may be classified or unclassified. The target and host governments as well as the sources involved normally are aware of the general collection activity although the specific acquisition, sites, and processes may be successfully concealed.

\* \* \*

OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION: A generic term describing information of potential intelligence value derived from data available to the general public.

\* \* \*

NOTE: These definitions have been provided by the Community Intelligence Definitions Working Group which is currently developing an interagency list of intelligence definitions. These two definitions have been extracted from the list.

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Chairman, HRC

EXTENSION

1228-G

NO.

DATE February 24, 1978

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

D/DCI/CT

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2.

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4.

AD/DCI/CT

FEB 27 1978

*[Signature]*

5.

6.

C/HRC

20 MARCH

7.

DE/HRC

20 Mar 78 *[Signature]*

8.

9.

Paul H.

10.

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15.

In the coordination of the attached memorandum, several agencies recommended that we change the word "inventory" to "understanding" in para. 3.c. This, they stated, was more realistic.

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*Pls discuss with me 27 Feb Done*

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